

GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.
5TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

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SPACE AND AERONAUTICS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4705

STATEMENT OF
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.
SEPTEMBER 18, 2002

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COLVILLE, WA 99114
(509) 684-3481

**In Re: Lake Roosevelt Forum's Public Meeting
to Discuss EPA's Sediment Site Investigation
of Lake Roosevelt**

Thank you for attending this important meeting tonight. Unfortunately, legislative business in Washington, D.C. prevents me from attending with you. Public participation throughout all phases of EPA's investigation of hazardous substance contamination on Lake Roosevelt is critically important.

The health and safety of your local communities and businesses are tied to the recreation, resident sport fishery and low cost power that Lake Roosevelt has provided for decades. This fact must remain at the forefront of our consideration during this investigation.

Several years ago, EPA was petitioned to assess potential sediment contamination and to consider whether or not further investigation is warranted. I have supported the effort to find out if and specifically where contamination is present in our lake. EPA may find that widespread clean up is not necessary. However, if EPA does determine clean up is needed, there are many ways to approach clean up.

Throughout this process, I will demand that the future of Lake Roosevelt be decided by all affected parties, including local governments, tribes, federal and states agencies and communities. If the clean up decision is made by just a select few, objection will surely arise. My role is also to ensure that the process for clean up, if any is needed, be individually assessed, targeted, expeditious, and accountable and not encompass all 513 miles of shoreline. Frankly, I have already told EPA staff that I would assist in funding corrective actions on a site specific basis as long as clean up begins immediately.

I am fully aware of the adverse impacts that the EPA's decision can have on Lake Roosevelt and on your communities. I will continue to be involved in this process to the fullest extent to ensure that there is due process, reason, equal consideration of economic impacts and accountability.

Should you have any questions or comments throughout this process, please feel free to contact either Shelly Short or Cathy LeBret in my office in Colville at (509) 684-3481.



MAR 03 '03 10:29AM

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5TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

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SHELLY SHORT

CATHY LeBRET

REP. GEORGE NETHERCUTT

COMMENTS: _____

per our conversation
a copy of Georges letter

OUR RETURN FAX NUMBER IS (509) 684-3482.